

ABSTRACT

This invention relates to novel compositions and methods for controlling the extendability of various components used in copying or amplification steps to provide an enhancement of the specificity of the nucleic acids produced by these processes as well as potentially increasing the amount of such products. By these means, the copying or amplification of target nucleic acids can be carried out under conditions where synthesis (derived from target nucleic acid templates) is retained while potentially deleterious side reactions caused by nucleic acids acting inappropriately as either primers or as templates are avoided.